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Is that true?

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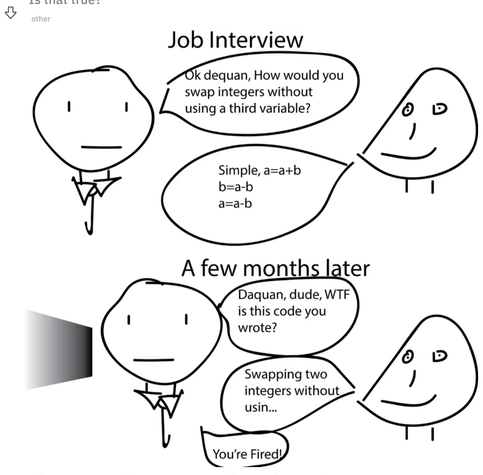

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schteppe · 2m
Yes. Don't do this.
4.7k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

EishLekker · 2m
I agree. Recruiters should never ask this kind of questions.
3.0k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

neekyboi · 2m · *edited 2m*
Recruiter asked me this, I used python a,b = b,a another question was to unique sort an array, again used python. did not get hired

edit: for all asking if any specific lang was mentioned in JD: no. I asked if I could use python, they said yes. I answered the algorithm for cnn and explained the process of contour mapping with opencv and multiple other ML/gaming projects
2.6k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Kyanche · 2m
Python is like a cheat mode for these damn things.
2.1k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Socile · 2m
I was told by a company I could do the interview in whatever language I wanted, so I used Python. Then they didn't hire me because after I answered all the questions they said they really wanted to see them done in C++. Fuckwads.
2.8k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

brewfox · 2m
Same exact thing happened to me. Such a waste of time. If you wanted it in JavaScript, don't tell me doing it in python is fine. The other 4/5 interviewers gave me a "hire" and that asshole said absolutely do not hire him.
1.1k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

astatine · 2m
That said, `[a, b] = [b, a]` also works in JavaScript.
585 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

revlayle · 2m
I think you can do it in c# now too
140 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

herpderpforesight · 2m
Tuples! `(a,b)=(b,a)`
131 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

3 more replies

5 more replies

dha72 · 2m
Those are the people who never used python and feel stupid when you solve que in one line.
322 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Al3xR3ads · 2m
Turns out that they really hate when you include

```
import commoninterviewanswers
```

174 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

25 more replies

33 more replies

GlebRyabov · 2m
Like, what the actual fuck? Every language (save for some esoteric stuff) has its own uses and advantages, and Python is definitely kinda important now. Also, Python is second on TIOBE Index, bested only by C.
190 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

something6324524 · 2m
if you want it in c++ or another langauge say you want it in that, if you don't want certain api's or commands used to solve it just say so, otherwise as the person being interviewed i would assume they were unaware of it.
136 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Jonno_FTW · 2m
Sorry, but mind reading unspoken requirements is an essential part of this position. Good luck in your job search.
144 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

positive_electron42 · 2m
To be fair, mind reading requirements is often a requirement in a lot of programming/engineering jobs. They don't really know what they want, they just know that they want it.
10 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

6 more replies

Musikap · 2m
As someone looking to get into this field, what is TIOBE?
13 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

3 more replies

13 more replies

FALCUNPAWNCH · 2m
My current job uses TypeScript but they let us interview using Python because the interviews were done by programmers who understand that programing skills are transferable between languages and not elitist idiots.
9 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

17 more replies

rexspook · 2m
Because these kinds of questions with expectation of some creative answer are dumb. If you know how to do it easily given a set of tools, then I'd much prefer you do it the easy way.
63 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Keepingshtum · 2m
Honestly I don't blame people using python, some of the crap they ask is just ridiculous and writing that shit out on a whiteboard in java is tedious as hell (interviewed for some very shitty companies)
380 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

CEDFTW · 2m
Like anything having to do with recursion, I have never encountered a problem where recursion seemed to be the right choice. It's a pain to implement and test properly and it's a pain to maintain if you didn't write it
169 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

superstrijder16 · 2m
I have had some, but not any that would be possible to do in an interview. For example making an "icicle plot", which can easily be made so you have an icicle plot on a subset of the data. But that was basically the main thing I did for 2 weeks in a group project, not a simple thing.
62 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

thecastleanthrax · 2m
There are some situations, usually in less high-level languages, when recursion is the better choice, but most of those situations are abstracted away from you in more modern languages. Anything you can do with recursion you can do with a loop, and most people are way more used to reading, writing, and maintaining loops.

Source: Used a LOT of recursion back when I was writing more in C, have not used it since switching most of my development work over to C#.
53 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

zebediah49 · 2m
The situation where recursion shines is when you're doing some kind of divide-and-conquer. In that case, the equivalence between looping and tail recursion doesn't really apply.

E.g. quicksort.
36 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

5 more replies

7 more replies

ironman288 · 2m
I have encountered recursion in production code exactly on time. While I was sorta impressed it was probably not the best way to achieve what they were doing.
16 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

justAPhoneUsername · 2m
The only time I've found that recursion is the correct choice is any time I've used Haskell

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11 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

3 more replies

incelren · 2m

How do you traverse a tree without recursion?

42 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

IzarkKiaTarj · 2m

Based on my job search after graduating, I'm guessing that the answer is "use a library with the function already written or something instead of reinventing the wheel."

Learned how to program pure Java (and others, but I like Java best). Got a good GPA. Loved my homework, even when it was frustrating.

No employer is actually hiring pure Java. I'm not even looking for a job in programming anymore because they all want me to have experience with other tools, and I need a job *now*, not whenever I learn how to use them.

85 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

20 more replies

ProudSeparateAccept · 2m

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breadth-first_search

13 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

25 more replies

17 more replies

2 more replies

hsantefort12 · 2m

Python is just pseudocode you can execute

126 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

piecat · 2m

Would you rather I use the easy choice to implement a solution, or reinvent the wheel each time I have a trivial problem encountered in CS201

127 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

3 more replies

3 more replies

11 more replies

spinlocked · 2m

You talk to recruiters? Well THERE'S your problem.

37 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

annihilatron · 2m

i can relate, I've popped out LINQ and Tuples in C# interviews and pissed off some hiring managers.

125 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

hkfskhsfuhkefshkf · 2m

```
List<List<Tuple<int,MyDAO>>> data =...
```

y'know what, f this

```
DataTable dtData =...
```

70 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

3 more replies

UrToesRDelicious · 2m

Just curious how did you sort the array?

24 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Milkshakes00 · 2m

You import numpy.unique and use it.

94 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

FemaleSandpiper · 2m

set() is a base function / no need to import anything. I believe it sorts too

49 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

redditusername58 · 2m

`set` is an unordered data collection and does not sort, you could unique sort using `sorted(set(things))`

66 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

4 more replies

4 more replies

bertlayton · 2m

Not him, but I'd assume sorted(set(my_array))

25 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

Ninjakannon · 2m

Of course, there are plenty of other factors outside that question that could have led you not to get hired such as someone else applying who was far more experienced. I still think this is a good opportunity to share a general point.

An interview is a conversation. You are trying to demonstrate 3 things:

1. That you can do the work.
2. That you will do the work.
3. That the interviewer could work with you.

If you answer that like so: "in Python you can do it like this, were you asking for a solution that wasn't language-specific?" then you show signs of being able to tick all 3 boxes of without necessarily even needing to continue talking about an alternative solution.

However, if you look like you're trying to be clever, or take shortcuts, you only demonstrate point number 1 while scoring negatively on the other two.

122 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

4 more replies

11 more replies

jaloveast1k · 2m

That's why recruiters never ask tech questions

136 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

NibblyPig · 2m

Me with 10+ years ASP.NET, C#, Javascript, etc etc etc

Rec: Do you know HTML?

Me: ?? Yes?

Rec: What version?

Me: Uhhh I don't really understand the question

Rec: Well we're looking for someone that knows HTML 5

Me: ...

281 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Capetoider · 2m

tech recruiters hate this simple trick

know why here

83 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

opliko95 · 2m · *edited 2m*

There are no Pokémon here.

- Ditto: Device as a Service from Eclipse
- Sawk: a tiny websocket client for browsers
- Vulpix: a .NET Core web framework inspired by Express
- Feebas: a visual regression testing utility
- Ekans: a lightweight PHP framework
- Metapod: old name for OpenStack private cloud offering from Metacloud (renamed to Cisco Metacloud after they were acquired by, well, Cisco)

And these are just one example for each, as for some of them there are multiple things that'd fit...

13 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

3 more replies

3 more replies

anirudh_pai · 2m

Me: i know HTML 5

Rec: um, we're looking for someone that knows HTML 6.9

151 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Ceros007 · 2m

And CSS420

63 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

3 more replies

Eelazar · 2m

Wikipedia says about HTML 5 "It is the fifth and last major HTML version", so why would that be a dumb question? Or do you just mean the way it is formulated?

11 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

2 more replies

Cley_Faye · 2m

They can ask, you can reply "I avoid it like the plague".

64 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

hkfskhsfuhkefshkf · 2m

Not once in 16 years have I *ever* actually used a linked list.

87 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

wackywavingarmgumby · 2m

Isn't C++'s std:list typically a linked list?

(I don't know, plain C guy here)

42 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

NvidiaRTX · 2m

Probably but who even uses std::list?

- std::vector gang

77 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

wackywavingarmgumby · 2m

C array goes `brr[]`

49 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

8 more replies

hkfskhsfuhkefshkf · 2m

I'm a C# guy, pretty sure we have an actual class for it. I've used lists and arrays and IEnumerables and IEtceteras, but I've never had a use for a LinkedList.

I *have* used a Queue before though, pretty sure that's roughly the same concept as a singly-linked list... but again, in 16 years that's never come up, so it doesn't really matter.

19 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

3 more replies

1 more reply

20 more replies

49 more replies

NeatNetwork · 2m

These interview strategies lead to some bad results. There's a development team that takes this stuff to heart and I hate every interaction with them, as they inevitably have some function that duplicates standard library implementation, but lower performance and/or buggy. For example in this very post, you'd have to figure out what to do if a+b was higher than max int and thus the approach stated would be buggy, and preserving that requirement would involve even more unreadable code, and that is the chosen strategy of that team.

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3 more replies

892ExpiredResolve · 2m

You've clearly never run out of RAM on a microcontroller.

The awful, awful things I've done....

306 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

terminalmemelocity · 2m

I killed a process once with its own ID. Right in front of its children. All of them, gone.

192 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Terr_ · 2m

Like tears, in rain.

48 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

TommiHPunkt · 2m

even then you'd do a XOR swap instead of this terrible mess.

Or more realistically, find the library that is causing the problem and copy paste just the code you need from it into your stuff.

64 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

892ExpiredResolve · 2m

I'll just load one of the variables into an unused peripheral control register instead...

"Why does your swap function use a timer?"

26 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Malazin · 2m

Literally just approved a PR with data being shoved into unused peripherals to relieve memory pressure on a DMA unit. Embedded is wild.

18 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

2 more replies

themixedupstuff · 2m

Nothing worse than having to use dynamic memory, only to find out the default driver will hard fault when out of memory instead of returning NULL.

41 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

892ExpiredResolve · 2m

Ain't nobody got room for malloc when I've got 64 precious, precious bytes of SRAM to manage.

42 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

themixedupstuff · 2m

Haha I've yet to work with micro controllers so small.

12 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

892ExpiredResolve · 2m

There's really no reason anymore other than supporting old designs. Even the new really low end stuff has more than that. I was thinking back to some pic12f that I used many, many years ago.

20 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

2 more replies

1 more reply

Gladaed · 2m

Do do this: std::swap or companyBoilerPlate::swap

165 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

hkfskhsfuhkefshkf · 2m

```
#define true false
```

75 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

wheres_that_tack_ow · 2m

#define true rand()

41 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

aiij · 2m

```
#define true (getuid() == TESTUSER)
```

30 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

J-Dubbleu · 2m

This is by far the most evil construct I have ever fucking seen

9 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

2 more replies

Terr_ · 2m

"It's not an third variable if it's in a different stack frame..."

8 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

3 more replies

Chirimorin · 2m

The only reason this would ever be needed is if you have no memory left at all, in which case there are probably bigger problems to worry about than swapping a few variables.

47 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

5 more replies

JedSwamp43 · 2m

ya, I dont understand why recruiters/interviewers will ask you questions that you don't need to solve when you get the job.

126 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

notagoodboye · 2m

School shit is...I mean, I got my CS about 20 years ago, and that's about the last time I did the sort of crap people ask about in interviews.

Every time I go to a new job, I pull out my stupid little "interview kit" and remind myself how to answer all the stupid questions, and inevitably they ask one or two of those, and inevitably they are impressed when I just rattle off some rote bullshit.

At this point it's just an idiot little mating dance, and both sides know what I'm *supposed* to say, and if I do what I'd actually do on the job, they'd be horrified.

78 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

25 more replies

5 more replies

jaloveast1k · 2m

My favorite coding puzzle: "Calculate the value of PI by only using random() function. And, well, basic math operators."

1.2k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Sushilachs · 2m

if random() ==pi: return pi

So how do you get pi with only random() and basic math operators?

1.3k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Moonkak3 · 2m 2 2

imagine a graph where the top left is 0,0 and the bottom right is 1,1 (coordinates). U generate a pair of floating point numbers between 0 and 1 using the random function. Then u plot the point inside the graph. Repeat this generation of pairs of floats N times (the bigger n is the more accurate ur pi value will be)

After plotting all the N points, draw a circle with a diameter of 1, it will fit perfectly inside the square graph. Now count the number of points inside the circle vs number of points outside the circle. U can find whether a point is inside or outside by finding its distance from the center of the circle at 0.5, 0.5 using pythagoreas theorem

Then u use the circle area formula on the number of points inside the circle vs outside the circle, and get pi

1.1k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

eyal0 · 2m

I would have used a quarter circle instead of a circle. I bet the code would look a lot better, too.

Generate a pair of random floats. Check if sqrt(xx + yy) is less than 1. Repeat.

A circle centered on 0.5,0.5 would be annoying to work with. Use the symmetry of the circle to your advantage.

442 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

PM_ME_A_NUMBER_1TO10 · 2m

Sqrt isn't even needed, just xx+yy<1 since $1^2 = 1$. So you can square both sides and still have the same inequality.

226 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

15 more replies

4 more replies

stochastaclysm · 2m

Did you just reverse Pi r squared?

96 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Moonkak3 · 2m

yeah

60 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

stochastaclysm · 2m

Nice work, man. Impressive.

43 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Moonkak3 · 2m

I didnt come up with it myself though i remember this from a youtube video on the challenge a year ago

69 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

1 more reply

aitchnyu · 2m

Perfect job for a Hadoop cluster /s

33 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

xroalx · 2m

That's not a programming question, that's a math question.

I'm applying to a job where my main activity will be to add/subtract ones from pixels to align a layout, not solve quantum science questions, ffs.

283 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Exic9999 · 2m

Thank you. I was reading this thread being like, holy shit, none of this is at all what I do on the daily. Getting that bad imposter syndrome reading this thread

50 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

4 more replies

38 more replies

LetoXXI · 2m

Wow

66 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

CantCSharp · 2m

Thats the shotgun method really cool application, respect

21 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

ianthenerd · 2m

Wouldn't the circle's trigonometric function use pi internally?

19 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

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AG_Cuber · 2m

> Then u use the circle area formula on the number of points inside the circle vs outside the circle, and get pi

I don't understand this part, can you please elaborate?

15 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

59 more replies

tazfriend · 2m

I'm guessing generating a bunch of random X, Y coordinate pairs from negative one to one, and checking how many are inside of the unit circle, and how many are outside.

49 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

supersevket · 2m

Oh my old friend Monte Carlo Algorithms, I did not see it since my bachelor's

37 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

rickyman20 · 2m

Using Monte Carlo estimation

14 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

10 more replies

thekingofbeans42 · 2m

pi = 3.14159 + (rand(int) *0)

262 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

ambrofelipe · 2m

You're hired.

55 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

GuardianOfTriangles · 2m · *edited 2m*

pi = math.pi + (rand(int) *0).

I'm just going to ignore the "operators" word from the request.

Edit: brain fart

21 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

3 more replies

1 more reply

Mad_Aeric · 2m

Oh, I learned this one from youtube. The probability that two random integers don't share a common factor is $6/pi^2$. You can figure it out from there.

100 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

jaloveast1k · 2m

Now that's a unique way of doing this

55 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

5 more replies

Yahlunna · 2m · *edited 2m*

Oh i remember reading about this one, you use rands to generate random points in a xy plane between 0 and 1. If the sum of x^2 and y^2 is bigger than 1 is outside of a circle of r=1. You just generate a shitton of points and then calculate pi with a basic math operation: (PointsInsideCircle/AllPoints = π/4)

Edit: fixed and completed the post with info from other msgs.

29 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

CapybaraWarrior · 2m

(Number of points inside of circle)/shitton = pi/4

15 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

3 more replies

Pervez_Hoodbhoy · 2m

Monte Carlo entered into he chat.

94 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

eyekwah2 · 2m · *edited 2m*

"Here, sort this list using bogosort and this random() function."

To be fair, I suppose the nature of the thing being solved could never be of any practical use which could also be done in 10 minutes or less or else it has already been done before. There's a very good reason we don't calculate PI every single time we need it, but honestly what else would you have a programmer do to prove their worth as a programmer?

I'm honestly racking my brains trying to think up a 10 minute problem that would actually be useful.

33 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

delphinius81 · 2m

Validate that a password text field meets strength requirements.

13 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

jaloveast1k · 2m

Aaaand here is your 10 pages long regex expression

23 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

8 more replies

Geosync · 2m

When I was in Jr High School, I was obsessed with writing a computer program to calculate PI. I borrowed math books to read from the public library, and books on FORTRAN programming, too.

I was so determined, but the subject matter was way over my head. I did not succeed, and gave up.

Then I started noticing girls...

39 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

[deleted] · 2m

Its not that hard, an easy way with random numbers would be: If you have a circle with radius 1, and you had that circle inside a square, the area of the square would be 4 and the area of the circle would be pi, so if you were to take a random point inside the square the odds of it being inside the circle would be pi/4. So you generate a bunch of points (each point is two numbers between -1 and 1), and check if they are inside the circle (its euclidean distance from 0,0 is < 1), and you multiply the percentage of numbers inside the circle by 4 you would get an approximation of pi

17 Reply Share Report Save

4 more replies

5 more replies

36 more replies

gogi_once · 2m

Overflow bug.

602 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

acontecivel · 2m

Yeah, the right way to do this is

```
A = A XOR B
B = A XOR B
A = A XOR B
```

No overflow and even less understandable!

1.0k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

brogus_amogus · 2m

You could do this on a CPU without an exchange instruction:

```
XOR A, B

XOR B, A

XOR A, B
```

This could be an optimization if the CPU also has few registers, as you can avoid clobbering a register and thus having to save it to memory.

150 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

InvolvingLemons · 2m

Note: this would rarely be a useful optimization as most CPUs have plenty of registers to spare and may have dedicated SWAPs. Really tiny micros may see an advantage.

93 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

bluehands · 2m

This is basically true for the original question as well....

34 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

5 more replies

vilidj_idjit · 2m

My grandfather taught me that trick when i was like 13 or 14 (he was a statistician and CS engineer for the canadian govt. for 30 years)

20 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

[deleted] · 2m

For my cpp homies:

a^=b^=a^=b;

But be warned, if a and b points to the same place the results will be 0.

21 Reply Share Report Save

2 more replies

trkennedy01 · 2m

W h a t

159 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

acontecivel · 2m · *edited 2m*

XOR has some nice properties. See https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/XOR_swap_algorithm

edit: Homework: Given an array of length n containing non-unique non-zero integers, write an algorithm that finds the only integer in the array that occurs an odd number of times. You must use O(1) space and O(n) time.

159 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

WikiMobileLinkBot · 2m

Desktop version of /u/acontecivel's link:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XOR_swap_algorithm

[opt out] Beep Boop. Downvote to delete

39 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Khaylain · 2m

Yes, thank you whoever made this bot. The desktop version usually redirects to the mobile version when loaded from mobile, while the mobile version DOES NOT redirect to the desktop version when on desktop.

23 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

1 more reply

WikiSummarizerBot · 2m

XOR swap algorithm

> In computer programming, the exclusive or swap (sometimes shortened to XOR swap) is an algorithm that uses the exclusive or bitwise operation to swap the values of two variables without using the temporary variable which is normally required. The algorithm is primarily a novelty and a way of demonstrating properties of the exclusive or operation. It is sometimes discussed as a program optimization, but there are almost no cases where swapping via exclusive or provides benefit over the standard, obvious technique.

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trkennedy01 · 2m

So, voodoo magic I probably shouldn't use, got it.

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crazyabe111 · 2m

Just remember to sacrifice a chicken to it if you do!

24 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

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wasdelb · 2m

Note:

A XOR A = 0

A XOR 0 = A

So, what he is doing:

A = A XOR B

B = (A XOR B) XOR B = A XOR (B XOR B) = A XOR 0 = A

A = (A XOR B) XOR A = A XOR B XOR A = A XOR A XOR B = B

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breezelightwort +2 · 2m

I do not recommend this

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Belal99 +2 · 2m

But why?

I'm a student btw.

205 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

snow-raven7 · 2m

In most programming languages, modern compilers can optimize the code enough that the performance difference can infact be negatively balanced against 'clever variable saving' code. What is even more important is the readability of your code, 'clever' tricks do no good to anyone including the future you.

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icecoldmind · 2m

I was studying a performance computing course and the gist of all the 5 starting lectures was: Don't try to outsmart the compiler and help the compiler know what you're doing so it can help you.

295 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

awesomehippie12 · 2m

What's a good textbook for that?

20 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

Captain_Pumpkinhead · 2m

If I want to learn more about that, what should I look up? Just "Performance Computing Course"?

9 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

AWildTyphlosion · 2m

What do you mean, you don't like my `i -=- 5`?

182 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Spamakin · 2m

What is this

44 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

AWildTyphlosion · 2m

`i -= -1`, which, is the same as `i += 1` or `i++`. Just as a joke.

101 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

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pigeon768 +1 · 2m

Because it's worse in every way than using a temporary variable. *In every way*.

People say "it uses less space because it doesn't use a 3rd variable" but that's fucking bullshit. In reality, the normal temp variable swap will just copy the variables to registers, and then put the variables back to RAM. In the normal situation where the variables were already in registers, the "temp variable" is optimized out by the compiler. It just... puts the variables back into RAM. In the event that the variables were always going to stay in registers you might think you're saving a register, but you're not doing that, either. The compiler will recognize the temporary variable swap idiom and compile it down to the swap instruction.

Even if it did save 1/2/4/8 bytes of RAM as proponents claim, it's slower, and will fail if the two variables alias each other. And the 1/2/4/8 bytes you save will be wasted by the extra 3 instructions your code has to keep in memory to do the swap.

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not_anonymouse +1 · 2m

> The compiler will recognize the temporary variable swap idiom and compile it down to the swap instruction.

No, it doesn't even need to do the swap instruction. It'll just swap the registers it uses in the subsequent instructions.

So instead of doing something like

```
Add R1, 4
Add R2, 5
```

It'll just generate

```
Add R2, 4
Add R1, 5
```

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1 more reply

Hypocritical_Oath · 2m

You're saving nothing and complicating things needlessly.

170 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Environmental_Cat670 · 2m

but the question is needlessly leading one to complicate things needlessly

42 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

5 more replies

eyal0 · 2m

Remember that variable names are a fiction. The compiler needs to map variable names to registers and memory locations in the computer. So when you swap variables, the compiler doesn't actually have to do anything except remember that the swapping occured.

Say your code looks like this:

```
swap(a,b)
f(b)
```

The code can be optimized to this:

```
f(a)
```

No swap at all. The compiler understands that the value originally in a is the one that needs to go to the function.

If you used some convoluted swap function then you could confuse the compiler into not realizing what's happening.

55 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

16 more replies

RedRedditor84 · 2m

```
a, b = b, a
```

2.4k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Konomi_ · 2m

python moment

(before i get a swarm of replies, yes i know you can do this in other languages too)

1.2k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

neekyboi · 2m

I literally did this in an interview, the interviewer was not happy but didn't remember the logic of how its done. No wonder O didn't get the job

488 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

[deleted] · 2m

> didn't get the job

You dodged a bullet.

454 Reply Share Report Save

2 more replies

Keegsta · 2m

> the interviewer was not happy

Ask stupid questions, get stupid responses.

16 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

SideburnsOfDoom · 2m

c# version is just `(a, b) = (b, a);`

258 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

flyingorange · 2m 5 5 & 9 More

In Java it's also very easy

```
public interface IntegerSwapping {

   void swapTwoIntegers() throws Exception;
   int getA();
   int getB();
   void setA(int a);
   void setB(int b);

}

public interface IntegerSwappingFactory {

   IntegerSwapping build();

}

public abstract class AbstractIntegerSwappingFactory {

   public abstract IntegerSwappingFactory buildIntegerSwappingFactory();

}

public class DefaultIntegerSwappingFactory extends AbstractIntegerSwappingF

   public DefaultIntegerSwappingFactory(ServiceLocator sl) {
      this.sl = checkNotNull(sl, "ServiceLocator was null");
   }

   @Override
   public abstract IntegerSwappingFactory buildIntegerSwappingFactory() {
      return (IntegerSwappingFactory) sl.findService("default", IntegerSwap
   }

}

public class MainApp {

    public static void main(String[] args) throws Exception {
       if (args.length <= 0) {
          LOG.error("Must provide configuration file as args");
          System.exit(1);
       }

       final File configFile = new File(args[0]);
       if (!configFile.exists()) {
          System.exit(2);
       }

       Thread slThread = new Thread(new Runnable() {
          public synchronized void run() {
             while (!Thread.interrupted()) {
                int state = ServiceLocator.getState();
                switch (state) {
                   case ServiceLocator.STOPPED:
                      ServiceLocator.start(configFile);
                      try {
                        wait(1000L);
                      } catch (InterruptedException exc) {
                         LOG.error("Fatal error", exc);
```

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```
                break;
            case ServiceLocator.IN_TRANSIT:
               // TODO  Jira-15732
               break;
            default:
               // TODO  Jira-15940
               break;
         }
      }
   }
});
slThread.start();

ServiceLocator.waitForServicesToRegister();

AbstractIntegerSwappingFactory abstractIntegerSwappingFactory = Serv
IntegerSwappingFactory integerSwappingFactory = abstractIntegerSwapp

int a = 5;
int b = 4;

integerSwappingFactory.setA(a);
integerSwappingFactory.setB(b);
try {
   integerSwappingFactory.swapTwoIntegers();
} catch (Exception exc) {
  LOG.error("Fatal error", exc);
}

a = integerSwappingFactory.getA();
b = integerSwappingFactory.getB();
}

}

// TODO  Jira-15329 Write documentation
```

1.5k Reply Give Award Share Report Save

hkfskhsfuhkefshkf · 2m

This is obscene.

394 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Seminal_Sound · 2m

Whatever you do don't look at fizzbuzz Enterprise then

220 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

cherryblossom001 · 2m

I just discovered this a few days ago funnily enough

https://github.com/EnterpriseQualityCoding/FizzBuzzEnterpriseEdition

115 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

incelren · 2m

I think my OOP teachers learned from that

35 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

3 more replies

mistrpopo · 2m

I like how it won't even work because you didn't implement the only thing that was required

68 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

humblevladimirthegr8 · 2m

Yeah I was like, am I missing something, where's the actual implementation?

10 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

SaintWacko · 2m

You have to be really good at Java to be this bad at Java

67 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

rush22 · 2m

Oh maybe you know what is this putting "throws Exception" on everything pattern. At my new job people write it on everything. But it appears to be completely useless and my IDE agrees. I saw someone had put it on a enum.

90 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

htmlcoderexe · 2m

We have flair now?..

The one and single time I have tried java years and years ago, something in one of the functions I wrote had to throw exception and for whatever reason I had to put throws exception on basically anything that used it, and then in turn on anything above that, all the way up to main class. I gave up right after. Maybe it is something that I horribly misunderstood, and maybe the people at your work have the same issue.

47 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

MasterofStickpplz · 2m

IIRC if you don't wrap the affected method in some kind of try-catch for the exception then you gotta pass/throw it up the chain

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12 more replies

tune-happy · 2m

bravo!

82 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

CardamomSparrow · 2m

LMFAO at the Jira Ticket comments

18 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

dimon222 · 2m

10/10, are you that guy working on desk on the other side of my floor?

15 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

AnotherUpsetFrench · 2m

Thanks for the heart attack. And I mostly do Java. Using an interface for only one class is a specialty.

13 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

bent_my_wookie · 2m

This is amazing, I fucking hate it!

10 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

romerlys · 2m

OMFG this is too close to truth. Unfortunately any language can be enterprisified to death

11 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

15 more replies

ClearMessagesOfBliss · 2m

Devil's script is the same : [a,b] = [b,a]

29 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

5 more replies

NibblyPig · 2m

Damn, I had no idea you could do this.

61 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

11 more replies

25 more replies

3 more replies

Charlieputhfan · 2m

I like tuples

91 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Huxley-Gin · 2m

gets hit by a train tuple

43 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

__GreenLantern__ · 2m

can someone explain in simple terms how does it work under the hood?

42 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

O_X_E_Y · 2m

https://godbolt.org has all the answers! I'm not sure how it goes under-under the hood, presumably the faster method (either a 3rd variable or the 3 arithmetic operations) is still used. However when we enter this:

```
def main():
    a = 5
    b = 6
    a, b = b, a
```

the bytecode (I think that's what it's called?) godbolt generates shows it has its own instruction (`ROT_TWO`) that is made to swap these two variables like this:

```
//variables are made at this point
8     LOAD_FAST        1 (b)
10    LOAD_FAST        0 (a)
12    ROT_TWO
14    STORE_FAST       0 (a)
16    STORE_FAST       1 (b)
```

Which probably shows how common it is. There seems to also exist a `ROT_THREE` instruction, however when trying the same thing with 4 variables it starts building a tuple which it later unpacks to put back into the variables. TIL!

110 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

htmlcoderexe · 2m

We have flair now?..

I'm guessing it pushes them on the stack, then swaps the top two items, then pops them back in

20 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

6 more replies

PapyPelle · 2m

Most likely pointer swap, just like c++ swap

33 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

17 more replies

48 more replies

CerealBit · 2m

a=a+b

Try this in Haskell and listen how loud your fans spin :)

591 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

S0ul01 · 2m

Try anything in haskell and see how fast your head spins.

465 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Krallorddark · 2m

can u explain?

86 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

CerealBit · 2m

```
a=a+b
  |
  a=a+b
    |
    a=...
```

Infinite recursion = Fans go brrrrrrrrr.

372 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Krallorddark · 2m

Ooooh yeah that old infinite recursion thing XD

55 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Goheeca · 2m

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```
Prelude> a = a + b
Prelude> :sp a
a = _
```

21 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

7 more replies

4 more replies

BlueCOdex · 2m

Am I allowed to answer with: "No, that's a stupid idea. Unless we're writing the compiler itself, why would you ever do that?"

235 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

ataraxic89 · 2m · *edited 2m*

Yes.

You probably won't get the job but yes.

Although, honestly you might get it if you're talking to other software developers and not just HR people.

133 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

jaggary · 2m

What if you essentially said this but in a more polite, gentle suggestion kinda way?

"Just for my own curiosity, is there a situation where we would see this problem in production code? Is there a way this directly relates to the problems being solved on the job in the position?"

60 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

pentesticals · 2m

I would just point out that its not a great test as making code harder to read and more complex for a single variable declaration doesn't make sense. It is a premature optimisation for a negligible memory allocation.

35 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

BlueCOdex · 2m

Not even memory, this would just save you one register. And it's such a simple case that the compiler would probably have optimized it for you anyways.

In fact, the compiler might not even do the swap in the registers and just swap the memory locations that it writes back to.

23 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

10 more replies

2 more replies

1 more reply

4 more replies

ImplementNational165 · 2m

This is more work then setting up an actual 3rd int

535 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

MaKo1982 · 2m · *edited 2m*

But dude, you have to save that memory space! /s

320 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

SendAstronomy · 2m

Especially when the result is lost in an integer overflow.

107 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

17 more replies

2 more replies

jaloveast1k · 2m

That's a logic testing puzzle, not an optimization, lol

80 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Environmental_Cat670 · 2m

hmmm....I question whether there is any "logic" in asking a question like this.

My first response would be "why would I want to do that?"

one of my particular obsessions is readable code. This kind of thing is just counterproductive "oh look how clever I am" bullshit unless there is a real reason to do it. In which case I want to know what that reason is, to formulate the best solution.

137 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

22 more replies

2 more replies

eyal0 · 2m

The compiler will optimize away the third int. Doing the swap this way will lead to slower code in any decent compiler. Don't do it. Don't try to outsmart your compiler.

42 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

4 more replies

3 more replies

bruceriggs · 2m

Butterfly swap for even more chaos.

```
a ^= b;
b ^= a;
a ^= b;
```

But yea, there really isn't a need to do stuff like this.

127 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

10 more replies

FrebTheRat · 2m

I prefer to ask something really important like "in sample use case, name this var". A dev who can name a var descriptively is much more valuable than one that can do stupid obtuse code tricks.

40 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

dolphins3 · 2m · *edited 2m*

I wish coding interviews focused on skills and knowledge that would actually be relevant to the job than these ridiculous puzzles.

And for everyone insisting this is testing for problem solving, let's be honest, most people just rote memorize this shit, and it's a type of problem solving that's rarely useful in the job at best.

I'd rather get a socially well adjusted coworker who can write decent comments than someone who can do sliding windows without StackOverflow.

If I was an interview I'd just do fizzbuzz or something totally trivial to get that formality out of the way and instead ask about projects they'd worked on and what kind of design and testing approach they had and try to sus out if they were a deranged extreme racist or misogynist or something.

328 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

designated_fridge · 2m

I recently got a job at a place that would be right outside of the big 6 and I honestly feel like the interview process only tested how good of a competition programmer I am.

Not even once during 9 interviews did we talk about abstraction levels, testing, code quality, code reviews, pair programming, etc.

And I'm now nine months and I haven't had to find the longest substring with non-repeating letters even once.

131 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Yesica-Haircut · 2m

This is what happens when the programmers have to develop algorithms with no business context.

"Lets just make them do coding challenges, that's probably a fine heuristic!"

"Certainly the harder the challenge the better the programmer!"

"We'll score them based on their time and space complexity and hire the one with the lowest score! We'll have pro developers in no time!"

Reminds me of my math textbooks written by math professors who have no idea how to construct a clear sentence.

47 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

hirotdk · 2m

> Reminds me of my math textbooks written by math professors who have no idea how to construct a clear sentence.

This is hilarious to me. I never understood why they didn't just use a simple real world problem instead of trying to come up with some convoluted bullshit and end up fucking it up with bad grammar or a simple typo.

8 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

supergauntlet · 2m

I actually just started at a company where every interview was just asking me questions like "how would you approach this problem" but not asking me to write code, it was stuff like "how would you talk to someone if their PR had a ton of issues" and the actual coding part was a take home project that took like, 2 hours.

genuinely one of the most refreshing interview processes I've ever had. whiteboarding is a waste of time and everyone knows it, yet everyone still does it for some godawful reason. dunno why.

39 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

3 more replies

10 more replies

grumetsu · 2m

He even changed name lol

24 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

phi_rus · 2m

In C++ it's just

```
std::swap(a,b);
```

137 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

Cley_Faye · 2m

Which, at least with gcc, goes with an additional variable.

62 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

andwass · 2m

That gets completely optimized away

28 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

4 more replies

13 more replies

discreteAndDiscreet · 2m

What, are we paying by the bit now?

94 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

D3LB0Y · 2m

Great, now I've got to take off taxes and compression.

15 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

queeferito · 2m

[a, b] = [b, a]

JavaScript

13 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

funciton · 2m

> without using a 3rd variable

Haha, just wait until you see the compiler's IR

34 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

1 more reply

thefujirose · 2m

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```
a = 3
b = 7
a = a+b
b = a-b
a = a-b
```

line	a	b
1	3	NA
2	3	7
3	(3) + (7) = 10	7
4	10	(10) - (7) = 3
5	(10)-(3) = 7	3

Oh, I see. Clever.

55 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

UnusuallySkeptical · 2m

I've never been any good at this shit

31 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

IgnoranceOrLies · 2m

To be fair, this is the equivalent of driving a car by sitting in the back seat and steering with a hockey stick.

Makes fuck all sense.

45 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

2 more replies

preacher9066 · 2m

Aside from the overflow bug, this doesn't work with floats, or booleans either.

40 Reply Give Award Share Report Save

16 more replies

223 more replies